



For Innovation

Application No: GB0507980.1

Examiner: Mike Walker

Claims searched: 1 to 3, at least

Date of search: 19 June 2006

Patents Act 1977

Further Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1-3, 7-13, at least	JP2002129283 A (SUMITOMO) see abstract and alloys table
X,Y	X: 13 Y: 1-3,7-12	EP1081245 A1 (SUMITOMO) whole document
X,Y	X:13 Y: 1-3,7-12	GB2186594 A (HUNTING) whole document
X,Y	X: 13 Y: 1-3,7-12	US3692514 A (HYDREAN) eg see Tables 1 and 2
Y	1-3,7-12	US2001/045284 A1 (SIMPSON) see abstract

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^x :

E1F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

EPODOC, WPI



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Your ref : P103414GBPC/ASG
Application No: GB0507980.1
Applicant : Enventure Global Technology
Latest date for reply: 21 August 2006

Examiner : Mike Walker
Tel : 01633 813688
Date of report : 20 June 2006
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Patents Act 1977

Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Code of Practice for patent applicants and agents

1. Your application causes some difficulty because of the inordinate number of independent claims, and, therefore separate inventions, currently on file, and lack of description support for matters in the later filed claims (paragraph 3 below).

This issue is covered in a *Code of Practice for patent applicants and agents* which the Patent Office published on 31 March 2004 as part of the Manual of Patent Practice. An online summary of the Code can be seen at <http://www.patent.gov.uk/patent/reference/index.htm> and I draw your attention to Code point 1 (one independent claim on file) and point 6(c) (amendments must not add new matter). You can help us to work more effectively by observing the Code points.

In this case I believe it would be more efficient if you amended your application so that the Code point was complied with before I consider the application beyond the matters identified below.

Basis of the examination

2. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 21 March 2006.

Added subject matter

3. Your amended application discloses subject matter which was not present in the original application. Any amendment which extends the original disclosure of an application is not allowable and should be removed or the application may be refused. The additional subject matter I have identified is the specific reference to a "charpy V-notch impact toughness of at least about 6 joules" and to a "charpy energy of at least about 90 ft-lbs" in claims 4 to 6, and claims 14 to 16. The slides included in the annex are not clear with respect to these parameters.

Plurality of invention

4. Your claims define two separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:



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[Examination Report contd.]

- i. the invention as claimed in claims 1 to 3, 7 to 13; and,
- ii. the invention as claimed in claims 4 to 6 and 14 to 16.

You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description. You may wish to consider filing a divisional application. Any such application should normally be filed no later than 3 months before the expiry of the period for putting the present application in order.

Scope of search

5. In accordance with Section 17(6), only the first of these inventions has been searched. The other invention can be searched if you wish. In this case you will have to file a further Form 9A/77.

What this report covers

6. I have not been able to consider the novelty or obviousness of the unsearched invention.

Novelty

7. The invention as defined in claims 1-3, 7-13 is not new because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

JP2002129283 A (SUMITOMO) see abstract and alloys table
EP1081245 A1 (SUMITOMO) whole document
GB2186594 A (HUNTING) whole document
US3692514 A (HYDREAN) eg see Tables 1 and 2

8. The documents cited above are relevant in a consideration of novelty of the application invention since they disclose the features of at least claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 13.

9. For example, specification JP2002129283A(SUMITOMO) discloses a steel pipe and a method of working at the use site to produce a product flow line tubular for use in oil and gas production. A number of steel compositions anticipating those herein are shown in the table on page 6 of the cited specification. This citation is relevant against claims 1 to 3 and 7 to 13.



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[Examination Report contd.]

Non-metric units

10. The equivalent metric values should be given alongside the non-metric values mentioned on pages 15, 16 and 17 of your specification. That is, claims 14 to 16 - charpy energy "90 ft-lbs".

Clarity

11. The claims include the term "about" qualifying percentages of various elements forming the steel alloy. This term renders the scope of the claims unclear and should be deleted.